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EDITORIAL

AFMC commander lauds portal capability

BY GEN. LESTER LYLES

Air Force Materiel Command commander
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio (AFM-CNS)—I recently told you my commander's intent for transformation within Air Force Materiel Command, listing four expectations to improve our support to the warfighter.

Among those are our goals to become more effective and efficient and to make our command easier to do business with. The experts in our information technology directorate and the Materiel Systems Group have teamed efforts to do just that by integrating us into the Air Force Portal.

Last year we embarked on an AFMC Portal initiative designed to streamline business processes and achieve significant savings by consolidating or eliminating Web servers. We have since joined forces with the Air Force chief information officer at the Pentagon to integrate what we have accomplished to date with the Air Force Portal. It's a win for AFMC and a win for our Air Force!

Our three original portal objectives remain intact:

- 1) to establish standard Web views with consistent look and feel and distinctive AFMC branding,
- 2) to implement a powerful content management capability, ensuring our Web content remains current and relevant, and
- 3) to provide a common platform for delivering future Web applications and capabilities.

We will achieve these objectives in three phases.

During phase one, AFMC headquarters and other selected units here will participate in the Air Force Portal pilot program along with Air Combat Command headquarters and selected units at Langley AFB, Va. Participating units other than AFMC headquarters will include the Aeronautical Systems Center, Air Force Research Laboratory and the Air Force Security Assistance Center.

The purpose of the pilot program is to register a large number of users and start getting feedback on Air Force Portal capabilities while assessing the impacts of servicing a large user community.

The current version of the Air Force Portal will provide a single window for you to access a wide range of information across different web sites. This information includes: military and civilian pay and benefits information, space-available travel sites and reservation information, TRICARE sites and other medical and health information,

and access to self-service applications like LeaveWeb, Thrift Savings Account Access, myPay and more.

The portal pulls together information for Air Force people into a single site. Target date for achieving phase one was Feb. 3. During phase two, we position ourselves to achieve real business value from the portal by capitalizing on work already accomplished within AFMC. We will stand up a production content management system here and help do the same at Gunter Annex, Ala.

In parallel, we will help the Air Force implement the AFMC work space model. This model will consist of four Web views: job, work space, knowledge and reference.

The work space views will eventually provide AFMC people with personalized content and applications directly related to managing their Air Force careers and accomplishing their day-to-day work.

The goal for achieving phase two is March 25, but we're working hard to do it sooner. When that is complete, we will begin moving existing Web content to the portal, and we will create links to the various applications our users need to do their jobs.

Finally, during phase three, we'll continue migrating web content and start fully integrating web capabilities into the common platform and work space model built during phase two. This final phase is a long-term effort and may actually include a number of individual steps.

I am committed to the Air Force Portal because it drives business value through Web server elimination. It also sets the stage for transforming AFMC business processes.

Unlike Web sites, where some information may be irrelevant, the Air Force Portal will offer registered users each a site that knows them. The Portal offers self-service, allowing our people to take care of business without waiting in lines, on the phone or struggling with red tape. It makes getting services and finding information on line easier, and offers meaningful, relevant content.

The Air Force Portal cuts through the clutter of online information, offering consistent, user-friendly navigation through a wealth of knowledge. This will help us do our jobs better and improve our quality of life.

I need everyone across AFMC to get behind this important command and Air Force initiative. The Air Force Portal is personal, powerful and essential!

Portal: *A Web site used as an entry point to other Web sites. Usually these Web sites provide a link for users to access commonly needed or used information.*

NUCLEUS

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Dr. Roche, Gen. Jumper: ‘World lost 7 courageous, talented individuals’

BY DR. JAMES G. ROCHE

Secretary of the Air Force
and

GEN. JOHN P. JUMPER

Air Force chief of staff

On Saturday, Feb. 1, our nation and the world lost seven courageous, talented individuals when the Space Shuttle Columbia Orbiter (STS-107) experienced catastrophic failure 15 minutes prior to landing at Kennedy Space Center, Fla. Among these brave astronauts were two officers from the Air Force family: Col. Rick Husband, mission commander, from Amarillo, Texas, and Lt. Col. Michael Anderson, payload commander, from Spokane, Wash.

On behalf of the men and women of the U.S. Air Force, we offer our deepest condolences to our Air Force family members Evelyn Husband and her children Laura and Matthew, and Sandra Anderson and her children Sydney and Kaycee. We stand together with all Americans in offering our prayers for the families, friends and co-workers of those lost in this tragic accident. We will never forget their great contributions to our nation and the world.

While we are deeply saddened by this tragic loss, we are also very proud of the Air Force team that has tirelessly assisted in the response to this national tragedy.

Air Force Space Command units from Peterson, Buckley, and Patrick air force bases provided tracking data as part of the accident investigation. Tanker units from Birmingham, Ala., and fighter squadrons from Texas and Louisiana supported a number of search and recovery actions. We’ve also flown communications support out of Texas and Oklahoma and provided airlift support from McGuire AFB. Barksdale AFB provided part of the Initial Response Teams supporting the Texas Department of Public Safety in recovery efforts, and continues to function as the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Consequence Management Operations Center and NASA Shuttle Recovery Center. The Air Force family will continue to offer support to the astronauts’ families, DOD, NASA, FEMA and state organizations.

We grieve for our friends and co-workers, but we also join the rest of the world in celebrating seven lives well lived and promise to continue to support the space program’s noble mission of discovery.

May God bless the grieving families, our men and women in uniform and the United States of America.



NASA photo

Space shuttle Columbia at launch.

How to prevent, minimize identity theft problems

CHIEF MASTER SGT. ALLAN LUDI

New Mexico Air National Guard

Identity theft has been covered before, however it seems to be on the increase. This information should help prevent someone from stealing your identity or minimize the damage if they do.

★ Have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on your checks. If someone takes your checkbook, they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name, but the bank will know how you sign your checks.

★ Put your work number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a post office box, use that instead of your home address. If you don’t have a post office box, use your work address. Never have your Social Security number printed on your checks!

★ Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Copy both sides of your

license, credit cards, etc. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. The key to cancelling your credit cards immediately is having the toll free numbers and card numbers handy so you know who to call. Keep them where you can find them easily.

★ File a police report immediately. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there is one). Call the national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number.

The numbers are:
★ Equifax: 800-525-6285,
★ Experian (formerly TRW): 888-397-3742,
★ Trans Union: 800-680-7289,
★ Social Security: 800-269-0271.

This advice comes from N.M. Attorney General Patricia Madrid:

★ Get off marketing lists that retain your personal information by writing to the Direct

Marketing Association, Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735, or Telephone Preference Service, P.O. Box 9014, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014.

★ You may also call 888-567-8688 to remove your name from the pre-screened lists generated by the four major credit reporting agencies. You will be removed from lists that are used to provide pre-approved credit cards or financing. You may choose to remove your name permanently, or for two years.

★ Contact my office (800-678-1508) and request an “Opt-Out” form letter you can complete and send to your bank instructing the bank to protect your privacy.

★ When you receive telemarketing calls, you have the right to tell them to put you on their “do not call” list. If they do not honor your request, please call my office and complain. We will be glad to call the company on your behalf.